

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

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P R 020650Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5884
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT BAGHDAD
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PLO JO LE SY KU
SUBJ: INTRA-PALESTINIAN QUARRELING AND PROSPECT OF PLO DISINTEGRATION

1. DURING COURTESY CALL AUG 1 ON JORDANIAN AMB MUHYI-ADDIN AL-HUSAINI, OUR CONVERSATION NATURALLY TURNED TO DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON,

RECENT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT AND COMMUNIQUE, AND SUBSEQUENT REACTIONS OF INVOLVED ELEMENTS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS AMB HUSAINI'S CONCERN THAT INTRA-PALESTINIAN QUARRELING IS MANIFESTING ITSELF IN KUWAIT AS WELL AS IN HIGHER ECHELONS LEBANON AND SYRIA, BOTH IN PLO AND ASJECTIONIST ORGANIZATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS CURRENTLY CONTENTION BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT WITHIN PFLP (BETWEEN AL-AMME (SP) IN KUWAIT AND HABASH, AS WELL AS

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WITHIN FATAH ITSELF HERE. HE FEARED THAT THERE WERE SUFFICIENT

WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES IN POSSESSION OF PALESTINIANS IN KUWAIT TO CAUSE PLENTY OF TROUBLE, EITHER IN TERMS OF INTRAMURAL FIGHTING OR, MORE PROBABLY, IN ATTACKS AGAINST GOK INSTLLATIONS AND CERTAIN EMBASSIES, FROM WHICH AMERICAN AND JORDANIAN SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.

2. ACTION WOULD INSTITUTED BY RADICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN PAL-ESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING DOWN GOK WRATH ON PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS AS A WHOLE, THUS HARMING CURRENTLY GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN MODERATE PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS AND GOK AUTHORITIES.

3. I SUGGESTED THAT WHAT HE WAS SAYING MEANT THAT PLO, AS RESULT OF BATTERING IT HAS TAKEN IN LEBANON, WAS GOING THROUGH PROCESS OF DISINTEGRATION. HE AGREED, AND IN RESPONSE TO MY NEXT QUESTION AS TO WHERE LEADERSHIP OF PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT WOULD GO IF PLO WERE TO BREAK UP, HUSAINI CAME UP WITH SAME ANSWER I HAD REPORTED SEPARATELY AS ALLEGED VIEW OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. ANSWER WAS THAT LEADERSHIP OF PALESTINIANS WOULD MOVE TO WEST BANK, WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION FROM EAST BANK PALESTINIANS

IN JORDAN. HUSAINI BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM SINCE ARAFAT AND TOP PLO LEADERSHIP WERE COMMITTED TO OBTAIN RETURN OF ALL PALESTINIAN LANDS AND THEREFORE COULD NEVER EITHER WILLINGLY ACCEPT OR BE ALLOWED BY THEIR RADICAL FOLLOWERS TO ACCEPT A PALESTINIAN STATE LIMITED TO WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. WEST BANK LEADERS, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY SUCH COMMITMENT AND COULD MORE EASILY DEFEND ACCEPTANCE OF LIMITED SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION, PROBABLY EVEN ONE INVOLVING ELEMENT OF FEDERATION WITH JORDAN.

4. COMMENT: MY CONVERSATION WITH HUSAINI AGAIN REFLECTS DIFFERENCE IN ANALYSIS OF LOCAL PALESTINIAN SITUATION EXISTING BETWEEN

LOCALLY ACCREDITED ARAB AMBASSADORS AND KUWAITI OFFICIALS. HUSAINI, LIKE OTHER ARAB AMBASSADORS, OBSERVED THAT KUWAITI SECURITY AUTHORITIES WERE BEING TOO LENIENT IN THEIR HANDLING OF PALESTINIANS AND ARE, THEREFORE, MAKING KUWAIT MORE VULNERABLE TO THE KIND OF DISSENSION AND POSSIBLE TERRORISTIC ACTS SUGGESTED ABOVE. HUSAINI'S VIEWS ON PLO DISINTEGRATION NOT SURPRISINGLY COINCIDE WITH SYRIAN VIEWS AS DESCRIBED TO ME EARLIER. IT WAS
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APPARENT FROM HIS REMARKS THAT JORDAN, DESPITE RABAT SUMMIT DECISION, HAS NEVER GIVEN UP PROSPECT OF REGAINING WEST BANK IN SOME FASHION OR OTHER BY EVENTUAL ANNEXATION OR EVEN LOOSE FEDERATION.
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